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Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-third session

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(Item 4 (a))

Section 21
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 16th meeting, on 20 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 21)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 21 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the work programme of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The view was expressed that the logical framework of the programme as presented in the document had improved. Support was expressed for the three priority areas that ECLAC intends to emphasize during the 2004-2005 biennium, namely: equity and poverty reduction policies in the region; national policies to improve the links between economic and social development and the current globalization process; and the mainstreaming of environmental concerns in public policies in the region. The view was also

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expressed that the thrust of the proposals was in line with the Millennium Development Goals, the 2002-2005 medium-term plan, the relevant outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and the reform process endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002.

4. The development of a common system and a database for the regional follow-up to all United Nations conferences, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals, was welcomed. The view was expressed that every time there is a reference to follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals, the corresponding paragraph of the Millennium Declaration (see General Assembly resolution 55/2) should be cited.

5. A question was raised on current plans to strengthen the mobilization of extrabudgetary funds at ECLAC in support of its technical cooperation programme in the biennium 2004-2005 so as to reduce uncertainty in the level of resources that would be available to carry out the programme. It was noted with satisfaction that no technical cooperation activity was earmarked for discontinuation as part of the efforts to streamline the programme.

6. It was noted that in some instances expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement had been modified from those in the 2002-2005 medium-term plan. The discontinuation of 37 recurrent outputs of marginal utility, consisting mainly of servicing of meetings and publications approved by ECLAC resolution 589 (XXIX), as well as the overall reduction of outputs, referred to in paragraphs 21.6 and 21.7, respectively, was commended. Concern was expressed regarding the discontinuation of the up-to-date report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States from the Caribbean perspective.

7. The importance of subprogramme 3 was underscored, as the area of macroeconomic policy was important for achieving sustainable long-term growth.

8. The importance of subprogramme 4 was emphasized, as it aimed at policies promoting social equity and the alleviation of poverty in the region.

9. The importance of subprogrammes 7, 8 and 12 was underlined. The view was expressed that Agenda 21 and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development should be emphasized in the formulation of the objective of subprogramme 8 (see table 21.24).

10. The view was expressed that external factor (c) in paragraph 21.60 should not be considered an external factor since it relates to work of the Commission to increase its commitment to further gender mainstreaming.

11. It was considered that indicators of achievement cited under subprogrammes 8 and 9 provided clear indications of the results intended. In particular, indicators of achievement (c) and (d) in table 21.24 were highlighted as an effective way of establishing the usefulness of training courses given by ECLAC.

12. Support was expressed for the inclusion of the subject of natural disasters in the work programme and the encouragement of regional cooperation in the area of risk reduction and vulnerability. Views were expressed on the institutional constraints that had affected the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in the past. ECLAC was encouraged to ensure that the regional preparatory process for the 2004

conference on small island developing States received all the assistance needed for its success.

13. Concern was expressed at the perceived lack of coordination and the duplication of activities between the regional commissions and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

14. It was noted with appreciation that upon completion of a comprehensive review of ECLAC's programme of work and operations, undertaken by the member States of the Commission in the light of General Assembly resolution 57/300 and the Millennium Declaration, the Commission had reoriented its work programme to focus on three priority areas and found 37 outputs of marginal utility, especially in the area of technical cooperation.

15. Regarding ECLAC's request for the deployment of a P-4 at its subregional headquarters in Mexico City to be the focal point for evaluation and vulnerability reduction in connection with natural disasters, it was asked who is currently conducting this activity and what the roles of UNDP and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs are in this area.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee recommended that the 2004-2005 proposed programme budget for section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, take into account, besides the Millennium Declaration and the 2002-2005 medium-term plan, as revised, the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits.**

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Table 21.10

Add indicators of achievement (d) and (e) of paragraph 17.9 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised.

Table 21.12

Add the indicators of achievement of paragraph 17.13 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised.

Table 21.14

In expected accomplishment (c), after the words "Enhanced regional", insert the word "technical".

Add indicators of achievement (a) and (b) of paragraph 17.18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised.

Table 21.16

In indicator of achievement (c), after the word "guidelines" insert the words "with the assistance of ECLAC".

Paragraph 21.60

Replace paragraph 21.60 with the following: "The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) gender mainstreaming in the region continues to receive full support from the countries of the region; and (b) member States continue to support the activities of the subprogramme."

Table 21.20

Add indicators of achievement (a) and (c) of paragraph 17.33 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised, as indicators of achievement (a) (iv) and (a) (v). Add to the end of each the words "with the assistance or collaboration of ECLAC".

Table 21.22

Add indicator of achievement (b) of paragraph 17.37 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised, as indicator of achievement (b) (ii) .

Table 21.24

Add expected accomplishment (a) of paragraph 17.41 and indicator of achievement (a) of paragraph 17.42 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised, as expected accomplishment (e) and indicator of achievement (e).

Table 21.28

In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), after the words "coding systems", add the words "with the assistance and/or collaboration of ECLAC".

Add indicators of achievement (d) and (e) of paragraph 17.50 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised, as indicators of achievement (a) (iii) and (a) (iv).

Table 21.30

Add expected accomplishments (a), (c) and (d) of paragraph 17.54 and indicators of achievement (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 17.55 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised.

Table 21.32

Add indicator of achievement (b) of paragraph 17.59 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised, as indicator of achievement (c) (ii) in table 21.32 and renumber indicator of achievement (c) (ii) as (c) (iii).